

MINUTES – Executive Board

Washington State Association of County Engineers
Professional Development Conference
January 21, 2004
Skamania Lodge, Stevenson

1. Federal (STP) Funding Presentation Stephanie Tax, H&LP
Handout "TEA-21 Reauthorization Update" was refereed to. The reauthorization of the federal Highway program is still being debated. There has been an extension of the existing federal program until February 29, 2004, but clarification of the program isn't expected until at least this summer. The new program (in addition to direct allocations) may include some discretionary funds based on safety. Local agencies (Counties) are requested to make suggestions to H&LP on how discretionary funds are to be allocated. Even with an emphasis on safety, there is no guarantee that it will be distributed to the local county level. Counties should make suggestions for any possible allocations for discretionary funds.

Handout, "Washington Transportation Plan Update" is being expanded to include local agencies and may be the basis for determining the need for future transportation funding. WSACE is being encouraged to be active in the development of the WTP. The key issues noted include:

- Update the Target Zero Safety Plan
- Update the State Intelligent Transportation System plan
- Conduct Congestion Relief Analysis
- Conduct Freight Customer Research
- Establish a Tribal Transportation Planning Organization
- Establish WSTA Public Transportation Plan work group
- Establish Local Roadway work group

A Transportation Planning Summit is scheduled for September 2004 with a Constrained Plan (Projects, Programs, & Policies) being developed by July 2005.

Handout, "Draft Proposal – Dependent upon Federal Legislation for STP Distribution – under 5,000 Population". It was emphasized that this is a draft and based on current law cannot be changed. (This was developed in response to a request from Columbia County.)

2. President's Report – Jerry Hauth
 - Meeting with H&LP on a regular basis resulted in the presentation by Stephanie Tax.
 - Draft Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with City Engineers was a handout. WSACE has a lot in common with The Association of City Engineers. The MOU was approved by the E-Board for signature by the president. One of the common items discussed was possible buyout by WSDOT of all federal funds for local agencies to decrease administration costs. There was concern

that this could possibly in the future result in the state decreasing local funds. A possibility of a reversionary clause was discussed to guarantee no loss of local allocations. This will be discussed more in the future.

- Input was requested for both the new Federal Highway funding Program and the Washington Transportation Plan Update. Phil Merrell will take the lead on these issues due to being related to legislative committee issues. Walt will be active because of CRAB but individuals as well as out organization need to become active on this issue.
 - The draft Initiative 309 (more recently renumbered) to decrease the property tax by 25% was discussed and recommended to have everyone be in opposition due to the great impact to local funding.
 - Notes from the Centennial Committee were passed out. This will be a great opportunity for use to have our engineering efforts recognized. 2006 will be our big centennial year. There will an ongoing effort on this.
3. President Elect's Report – Phil Merrell
Committee Reports:
 - Salary Committee – Reid noted that the update of the salary survey would begin in the fall.
 - Stormwater Committee – Ross noted that the Eastern Stormwater Manual is in its final stages. Senate Bill 3562 proposes to limit DOE's NPDES involvement to federal legal requirements.
 4. Secretary Treasures Report – Dale Rancour
Treasures Report was handed out.
 5. Western District Report – Esco Bell
Western District Meeting is being planned for April 21 in Vancouver.
 6. Eastern District Report – Derek Pohle
Eastern District Meeting is being planned for April 8&9 in Chelan.
 7. Executive Assistant's Report – Karen Pendleton
It was approved to have a Technical Suite at this Professional Development Conference. Centennial Committee was discussed.
 8. CRAB Report – Walt Olsen
 - New forms will be out soon
 - New Engineer Training scheduled for March 18-19
 - Proposed new training being developed for front line/maintenance supervisors (possibly out by fall).
 - County Freight and Good Report is out.
 - Handout, "So You're the New County Engineer" for comment by February.
 - Proposed legislation to require roadway sweeping and other operations to be considered as hazardous material. It is suggested that we comment on this draft legislation (City of Tacoma has estimate an annual cost of \$200,000-\$300,000).
 9. NACE Representatives Report - Kent Cash

Kent noted that if we have 100% of counties paying NACW dues than we get a free NACE conference attendance. It was approved to have effort to have all counties pay their NACE dues and if we are one short then WSACE will pay the last due.